Streamlining the procedure to exercise franchise by services and defence personnel

*236. SHRI LAKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission has appointed a working group to streamline the procedure to exercise franchise by services personnel and defence personnel in elections to Parliament and State assemblies;

(b) if so, whether the working group has sumbmitted the report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Election Commission has not appointed any working group to streamline the procedure to exercise the franchise by service personnel and defence personnel in elections to Parliament and State assemblies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Need for appointment of any working group has not been felt so far.

Requirement of additional airport in Mumbai

*237. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai needs an additional airport in near future; and

(b) if so, what are Government plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra had sent a pre-feasibility report for the construction of a new airport of international standards in the Mandwa-Rewas area, prepared by an international Consortium. After examination, it has been suggested to the Government of Maharashtra that feasibility studies be conducted for all suitable sites, before deciding on the location of the new airport.

Hotels and Yatri Niwas in Punjab

*238. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up hotels and 'Yatri Niwas' in the State of Punjab under the Central assistance for the promotion and development of tourism in the State during the year 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount of fund earmarked for this purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to promote tourism in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) the Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in augmenting/creating tourism infrastructure facilities. Such assistance is given on project to project basis, depending upon their merits, inter-se priorities and availability of funds.

The Department of Tourism have not received any proposal from the State Government of Punjab to set-up hotels and yatri niwases in the State of Punjab during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98.